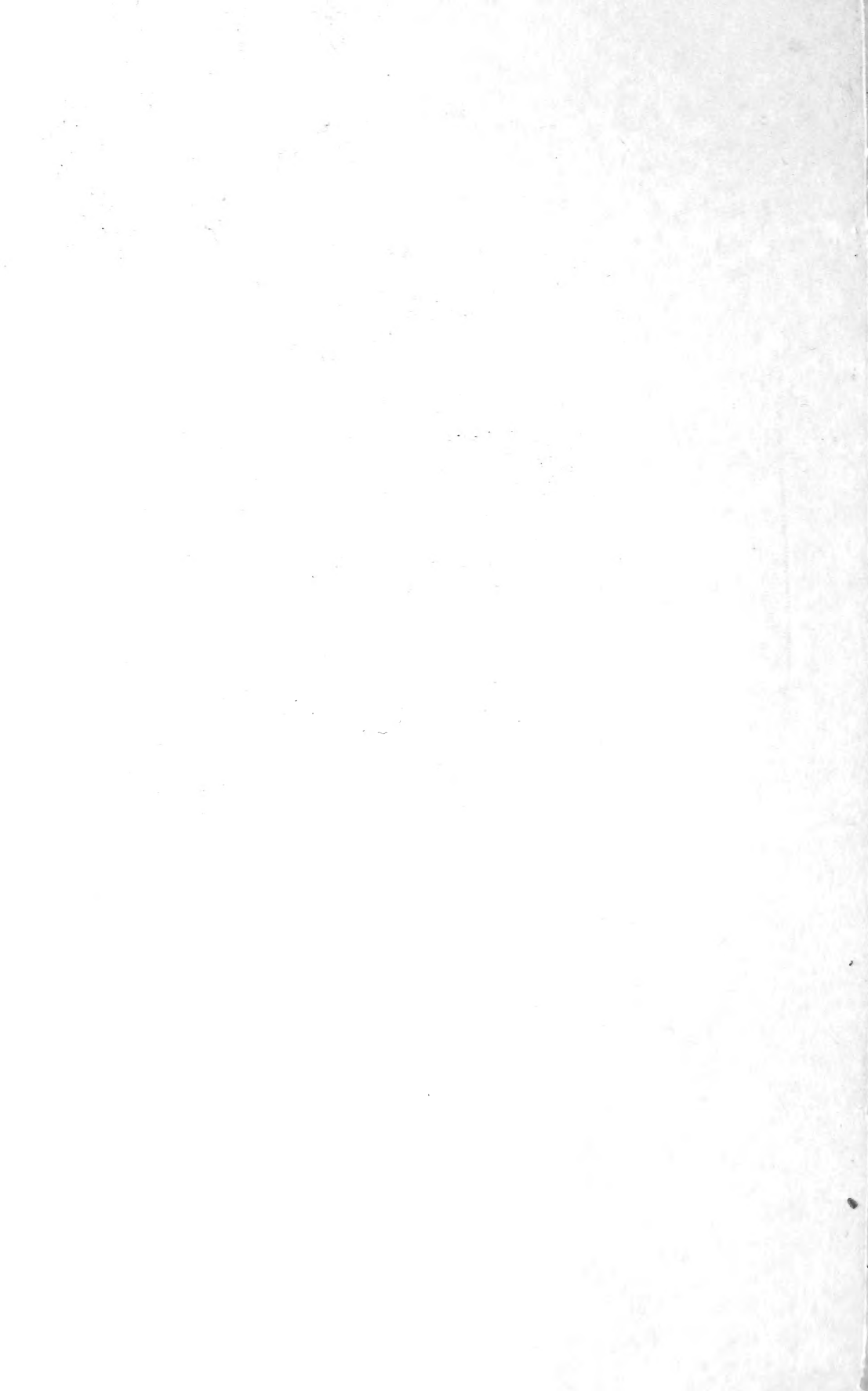


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Stearns

PEACH CATALOGUE.



1904



ROCHESTER LITH CO. ROCHESTER, N.Y.

THE ORIGINATOR JAMES N. STEARNS AND HIS
GRAND NEW PEACH.



JAMES N. STEARNS,
HORTICULTURIST AND FRUIT GROWER.

. . . Introduction. . .

We feel that no higher compliment can be paid a nurseryman than to be selected by an Illustrious Horticulturist to introduce and disseminate a variety of fruit worthy of bearing his name. Such is our honor in being commissioned to introduce the new peach "**Stearns**," originated in the heart of the great fruit belt of Michigan by James N. Stearns, of South Haven, "by the sea."

Mr. Stearns needs no introduction to the fruit growing public of Michigan, for the long, faithful and valuable services he has rendered the Michigan Horticultural Societies, The Farmers Institutes, his origination of the Kalamazoo peach and other noteworthy efforts, have made his name familiar, and his judgement and ability recognized throughout the borders of Michigan and other states. The **Stearns** peach, after having been thoroughly tested is introduced with every assurance from the originator and the **Central Michigan Nursery**, that it surpasses any other variety yet given to the public. Possessing the size and firmness of the Elberta, the quality and flavor of the Crawford, the hardiness and prolificness of the Kalamazoo, together with the fact of its being **perfectly free from curl leaf** bespeak for this new variety a sale of trees unprecedented in the history of the dissemination of valuable fruits.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN NURSERY,

Kalamazoo Michigan.

To whom it may Concern:

This certifies that I have assigned to the **Central Michigan Nursery**, Kalamazoo, Michigan, the sole right to propagate and introduce my new peach, **Stearns**, and that no other person has received any buds or scions, or has any right to propagate or introduce the, **Stearns**, except under contract from the **Central Michigan Nursery**.

Dated at South Haven, Michigan, this 22nd day of September 1903.

(Signed) **JAMES N. STEARNS,**

Life and Work of James N. Stearns.

J. N. STEARNS, the subject of our sketch, is undoubtedly the best known and best informed Fruit Grower in the Western Country. Born in Genesee County, New York, in 1835 on a farm, his boyhood days were passed in the invigorating air and balmy sunshine such as induces a love for the natural things of life. Possessed of a good education and with failing health, for he was not a strong man physically speaking, at 30 years of age he sold his farm and started for Michigan to better his condition, and secure some business of a lighter character best suited to his physical strength.

After viewing the field over he found there was a woeful lack of fruit growing and a constant demand for same, so he secured a small farm adjoining the City of Kalamazoo, and started on a limited scale in 1866 growing small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc., and so successful was he that he practically had a monopoly of the business for a number of years, obtaining good prices for all he grew; so capable and painstaking was he to produce and market only the best, that his advice and opinions were eagerly sought from all parts of the rapidly growing territory.

In 1872 he engaged in the Nursery business in Kalamazoo and continued in that business until 1881, when he withdrew and took in part payment his present farm, adjoining South Haven, Mich., which he planted to the choicest varieties of fruit and which he so thoroughly understood.

Mr. Stearns has been one of the Directors of the Kalamazoo Agricultural society for the past 20 years and still holds office, and has been its efficient secretary for the past five years. He also ably filled the office of Alderman of the 3rd ward of this city, for four years, and was a member of the Executive Board of the State Horticultural society for 8 years. Mr. Stearns was also superintendent of the fruit exhibit of the State Fairs during that period and was superintendent of the fruit exhibit of the United States at the Biennial meeting of the American Pomological Society at Grand Rapids.

Mr. Stearns never sought publicity, nor one of the offices thrust upon him, but on the contrary, has been in constant demand to address Farmers Institutes and kindred societies, as his long years of close application and constant experimenting, carefully noting results, and quick to notice the benefit arising from same, undoubtedly places him as the greatest all around authority on fruits in the state of Michigan, and one of the leading Horticulturists of the United States.

His home four months of the year, at South Side Farm, is one of constant activity; picking, packing and shipping the various crops as they mature; a constant stream of visitors seeking information from a mind thoroughly democratic in its ideas, always ready to aid and assist his less fortunate co-laborer in his chosen occupation, always having a pleasant smile and a warm grasp of his hand, smiling and nodding to all, carefully keeping in touch with his employees and guarding his customers interests, is the daily life of the King of Fruit Growers of the Michigan Fruit Belt.

So careful is he of misleading the public, that statements made by him are not only the result of actual experience but keen observation, not only on his own, but neighbors farms, and he is quick to recognize the excellent qualities of the different new varieties of fruits constantly being offered to the public.

Peaches seem to find most favor with Mr. Stearns, as he thinks it the fruit for the masses, and when broached on the subject, his face lightens up and the sparkle of his eye denotes the enthusiastic feeling of the man, on this, his favorite fruit. He originated the famous Kalamazoo Peach on his home place near the Asylum in Kalamazoo, and with his endorsement of its merits it soon won its way to the top, and is now offered in every catalogue of note in the United States and universally grown.

In speaking of the new variety which bears his name he was very effusive, and distinctly endorsed all that has been said of it and predicts that in a few years more money will be made by the grower with the Stearns Peach than any other fruit ever offered in this or any other country. Why, said he, "if you could see the wagons when they come in from the field loaded with this luscious fruit, glistening in the sun with its elegant color and tempting appearance, you would go into ecstasies as I do, and I am an old grower and hope to see hundreds of thousands of boxes of Stearns Peaches going to the different markets in a few years to gladden the hearts of the lovers of the finest fruit on earth."

In general appearance, Mr. Stearns is above the medium height, erect, 69 years of age, hair slightly sprinkled with white but looks 20 years younger and has every appearance of living many more years. His home life is happy and when visiting him at his home in Kalamazoo, which he makes his residence eight months of the year, or on his farm, one will always find a genial welcome, and like all men who have attained prominence in the different walks of life, a desire to aid and assist all who may seek his advice, and any one desirous of investigating the methods employed at the South Side Farm will be warmly welcomed and made to feel at home.

Stearns Peach.

*Origin and qualities from the pen of
Hon. James N. Stearns.*

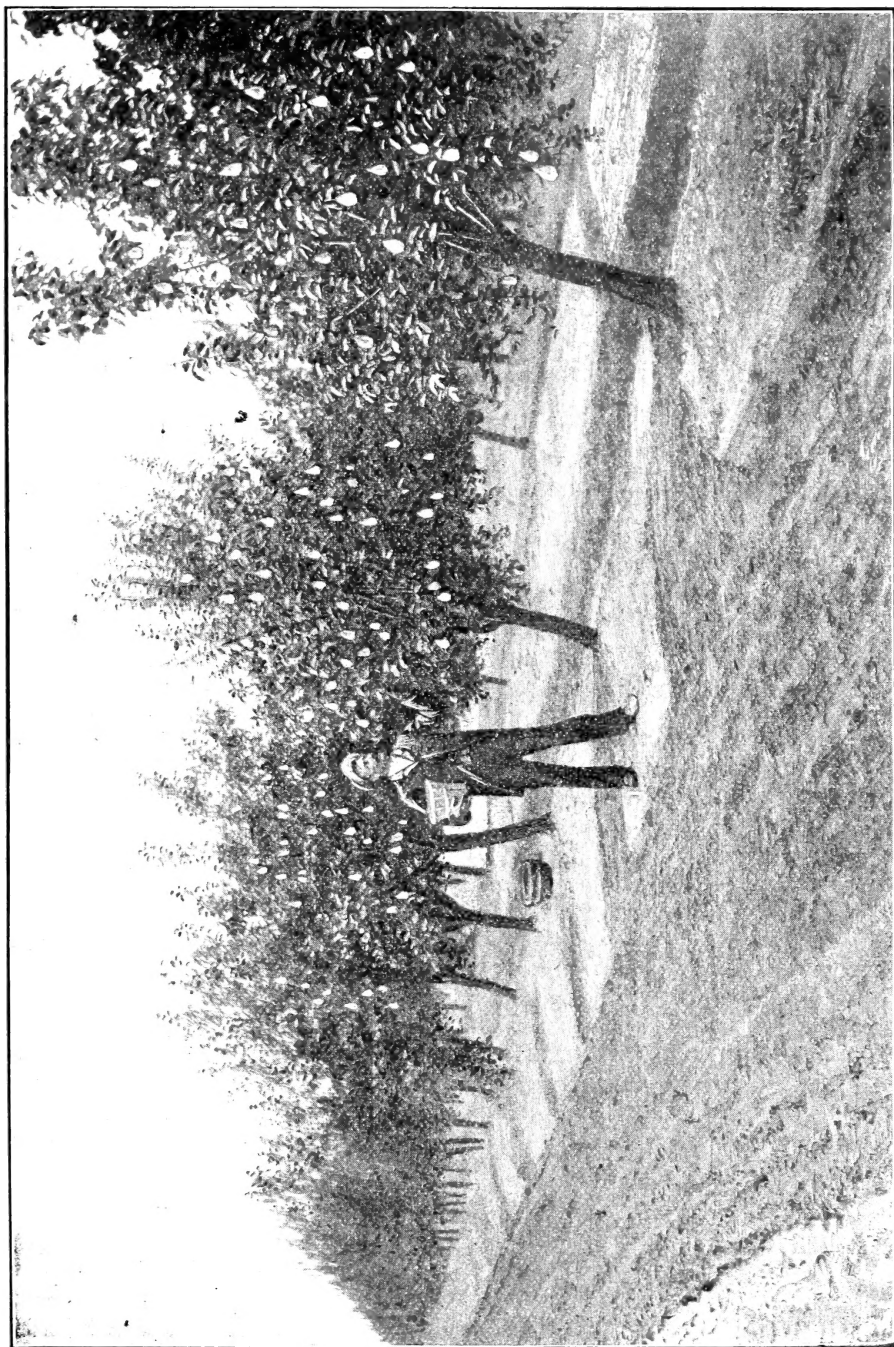
IT SEEMS quite important to bring our new, desirable seedling fruits, for like grains and vegetables most varieties have a tendency to deteriorate, especially the way most fruits are propagated. We see this desirability in the great popularity of the "Kalamazoo" which originated with me a little over twenty years ago, and which now stands superior to any of the older sorts, like Jacques, Barnard, Hill's Chili, or even the popular Crawfords.

It is generally understood that all our best fruits were originally seedlings.

The peach that has been given my name originated as follows : some fifteen years ago 200 seedling peach trees were planted by the side of my fruit farm in South Haven. When they came into bearing, most of them as usual, were of no value, but one tree attracted my attention from its full crop of the most beautiful peaches I had ever seen. I budded about fifty trees from this and planted them in my orchard. They came into bearing four years ago. I wished to give them a fair test with all kinds of seasons, before giving them a name or offering them to the public, but after fruiting for four years, and having demonstrated so many desirable qualities, I feel a pride in having it bear my name, as I believe, taking all its points into consideration it is by far the finest peach I have ever seen in the thirty five years I have been in the fruit business.

In the first place, it is the handsomest peach I ever saw, because of its form, size and brilliancy of color, while its excellent flavor, firmness and good shipping qualities are unsurpassed. I shipped a couple of bushels to North Dakota and they wrote me every peach arrived just as fine as when picked from the tree. In size equal to the Elberta, if properly thinned, much superior to this sort in quality and beauty and more than four times as hardy, that is I get four good crops from this where I get one from the Elberta ; planted side by side.

The tree is a strong upright grower, extremely hardy and free from the disease so fatal to the Elberta, the curl-leaf. This peach has all the desirable points that I can think of to place it at the top as a market peach ; it brought \$2.00 per buseel the past season, when other peaches were selling for \$1.00 to \$1.50 ; brilliant red on surface with yellow flesh, perfectly free, small pit.



James N. Stearns, as seen in one of his famous Orchards, South Haven Michigan.

Testimonials.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

EXPERIMENT STATION.

FRUIT TESTING SUB-STATION.

SOUTH HAVEN, MICH. October, 3, 1903.

Central Michigan Nursery Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Gentlemen:—Your favor of September 25th at hand. In reference to Stearns Peach. I have watched this variety in fruiting on the farm of introducer, J. N. Stearns, for two years and consider it a valuable addition to the commercial varieties now grown. Hardy in bud, fruit of large size, yellow, with red cheek, firm fleshed and of good quality. In season follows Kalamazoo and I believe will prove of fully as great value for the commercial orchard as that variety has done.

Very Truly Yours,

T. A. FARRAND.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

EXPERIMENT STATION.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE P. O. MICH.

MARCH 4, 1904.

Central Michigan Nursery, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Gentlemen:—"I am glad to know that you are introducing the Stearns Peach". From what I know of Mr. Stearns, I do not think he would allow it to go out with his name, if he does not consider it a valuable variety, one which is worthy of a place in the list of commercial sorts.

I have known Mr. Stearns and been familiar with his work for many years and consider him one of the most successful fruit growers in Michigan. His methods are certainly up-to-date and he has put into practice the ideas advanced by him at Horticultural meetings and Farmers Institutes.

I trust that you will have good success with the new variety.

Yours very truly,

L. R. TAFT,
Horticulturist.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE.

ITHACA, N. Y., MARCH 8th, 1904.

Central Michigan Nursery, Kalamazoo, Mich.

My Dear Sirs:—I shall be greatly interested in this new peach, since it bears the name of Mr. Stearns whom I have known for many years. His South Haven peach farm is only a short distance from my birth place and I have seen it often. I have great confidence in Mr. Stearns' opinions

Yours very truly,

L. H. BAILEY.

MICHIGAN FORESTRY COMMISSION.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. MARCH 4, 1904.

Central Michigan Nursery Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Gentlemen:—I am glad you are to introduce a peach under the name "Stearns", because Mr. J. N. Stearns, after whom it is named, is worthy of any honor horticulture can bestow upon him. He has, during the life of the Michigan Horticultural Society, done a great deal of self-sacrificing work in its interests, and the purpose which it stands for. He has been successful as a horticulturist and has been willing, always, to assist other people, by giving them the benefit of his experience "without money and without price." He has served Michigan Horticulture as few other men have done. If any of us can do any disseminating of fruit worthy of cultivating that bears his name, it certainly will be our pleasure, as associates of his in horticulture, to be helpful.

Yours very truly,

CHAS. W. GARFIELD.

MICHIGAN STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

OFFICES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

SOUTH HAVEN, MICH., MARCH 8th, 1904.

Central Michigan Nursery, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Gentlemen:—I have a very high regard for Mr. James N. Stearns as a Horticulturist and Fruit Grower, believing him to be well informed upon these subjects of which he has made a life long study.

In my opinion the State of Michigan is deeply indebted to Mr. Stearns for what he has done for its fruit interests.

Very truly yours,

C. J. MONROE.

REFERENCES.

For information concerning the moral and financial responsibility of the Central Michigan Nursery, we most cheerfully refer to the following Kalamazoo Banks and business and professional men as well as Dun's and Bradstreets Commercial Agencies.

Kalamazoo National Bank.

Michigan National Bank.

City National Bank.

Kalamazoo Savings Bank.

U. S. Senator J. C. Burrows.

Judge J. M. Davis.

Mayor J. W. Osburn.

A. Gaylord Slocum, D. D.—L. L. D. Pres.
Kalamazoo College.

The Stearns Peach.

Its Value as a Commerical and Dessert Fruit.

No one can sing too loud the praises of the **Stearns Peach**, for its remarkable qualities cannot fail to make it a herculeas among the varieties of peach trees now under cultivation. As a commerical sort, its equal has yet to be introduced, and we heartily recommend its planting by all peach growers who are interested in the dissemination of such varieties as will bring them the greatest financial returns. Note the words from the pen of the originator, who says, "the Stearns fruit brought from 50 cents to \$1.00 per bushel more than other standard sorts," and contrasting it with the Elberta he states over his own signature that "it is four times as hardy as that variety," or in other words, he gets four good crops from the **Stearns** where he gets one from the Elberta. What does this mean to the peach growers of the United States? It means this, that where \$1.00 is made from a standard variety like the Elberta, the **Stearns** will make at least \$5.00, and this contrast is made with a variety that has been planted far and wide throughout the United States during the past few years.

Last summer the writer visited Mr. Stearns, at his famous South Haven Fruit and Testing Farm, and I shall never forget the sight which his orchard of **Stearns Peach** trees presented. No artist could flatter the beauty of these trees laden with their bushels of large, handsome peaches, as they were acquiring their brilliant color, peculiarly their own and characteristic of this marvelous peach. But not only was the fruit handsome, for the beautiful deep green foliage indicative of the health and hardiness of the variety was in itself something to admire. No other variety that I know of has such beautiful foliage as the **Stearns**, being perfectly free from curl leaf, another strong point in its favor. Again, the fruit clings to the stem well, notwithstanding its strong bearing qualities and its unusual size, and this is one reason why the **Stearns** bears such large crops of fruit.

Having referred to the **Stearns** as commerical sort we would briefly speak of its desirability as a peach for home use for planting out in the garden, where there is only sufficient room for one, three, one half dozen or one dozen trees. For dessert and canning purposes, the **Stearns** has no rival, and should be planted by every property owner who is in a locality where peach trees can be successfully grown.

We are introducing this new peach for Mr. Stearns, because it represents the highest degree of perfection in peach culture and its dissemination will be a source of much gratification to Mr. Stearns, the originator, and ourselves as introducers, while it will serve as a benefactor to the fruit interests of our country.

CENTRAL NURSERY & FLORAL CO.

SUCCESSORS TO

The Central Michigan Nursery.

The Central Michigan Nursery, is located on a belt of high land just above the famous Kalamazoo Valley, and only a few miles east of the great fruit belt of Western Michigan. Here the soil and climatic conditions are such as to insure hardy well ripened trees of the highest standard of excellence that can safely be transplanted on soil in any latitude in the United States.

The shipping facilities of Kalamazoo are unexcelled by any other city in the United States, being located on the main line of the Michigan Central, midway between Detroit and Chicago; on the Grand Rapids and Indiana midway between the Straits of Mackinac and Indianapolis; on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern; Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw; and South Haven division of the Michigan Central. We have American, United States and Adams Express Offices.

The Stearns peach trees are propagated on the grounds of the Central Michigan Nursery, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and upon land never before planted to nursery stock. The root system of each and every tree is the offspring of a natural peach seed, gathered from the Mountains of Tennessee, while the buds are secured from the parent trees now standing on the fruit and experimental grounds of the originator at South Haven. Both the vicinity where the Stearns was originated and the grounds of the Central Michigan Nursery are sections where the San Jose Scale, Yellows and other dangerous plant and tree diseases are unknown, hence, our trees are the embodiment of purity. The propagation of the Stearns is under the personal supervision of an expert who will carefully examine every tree before it leaves our packing grounds, and only such as are free from blemish or defect will be packed. The trees will be graded to a standard height of 4 to 6 feet and to each will be attached the Stearns aluminum label, trade marked under the laws of the United States, bearing on one side the inscription of the originator, Mr. James N. Stearns, and on the other side the picture of the Stearns peach.

The Stearns will be sold to the public through the medium of legitimate nurserymen under a contract guaranteeing a uniform price named hereafter in this catalogue. Nurserymen who are authorized to sell the Stearns will be furnished with a certificate of such authority signed by the Central Michigan Nursery, Kalamazoo Mich.

The prices of STEARNS PEACH TREES for the season will be as follows:

Trees, strictly first class, 4 to 6 feet high, each	\$ 1.00
" " " " 4 to 6 " " per 6	5.00
" " " " 4 to 6 " " 12	10.00
" " " " 4 to 6 " " 25	20.00
" " " " 4 to 6 " " 50	35.00
" " " " 4 to 6 " " 100	60.00

The trees will be securely packed to admit of long distance shipments and to insure their arrival in perfect condition at any point in the United States.

CENTRAL NURSERY & FLORAL CO.

SUCCESSORS TO
Central Michigan Nursery,

Kalamazoo, Michigan. U. S. A.

STEAMER PEACHES

First size, 4-5 ft

.35 each

3.50 per doz

Second size, 3-4 ft

.20 each

2.25 per doz

Third size, 2-3 ft

.15 each

1.75 per doz



STEARNS PEACH.

Originated by James N. Stearns, practical fruit grower and horticulturist. In size equal to the Elberta and in quality and brilliancy of color much superior. Trees planted in the originators orchard along side the Elberta, bore four good crops where one was secured from that variety. The tree is a strong upright grower, extremely hardy and absolutely free from curl-leaf. Commands the highest price in both home and foreign markets, selling at an advance of fifty cents per bushel over other well known sorts. A perfect free stone, yellow flesh, small pit. Ripens between the Crawfords and about with the Elberta.